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REMARKS

Claims 33-64 are presented in this RCE response. These claims are directed to a "filtration cartridge" having certain physical properties as defined in each of the claims.

Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-24, 26-30, and 32 were rejected under Section 102(b) or 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teachings of Kawai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,158,680). In view of the new claims presented herein, this rejection is believed to be moot.

Kawai et al. neither anticipates nor makes obvious the invention defined by new Claims 33-64. Clearly – the membrane resin material taught in Kawai is PTFE – polytetrafluoroethylene resin. The present invention does not teach, suggest, or claim the use of PTFE as the material for the membrane or the sealing means.

PTFE is not a perfluorinated thermoplastic resin. Accordingly, a critical claim limitation is not taught or suggested by the Kawai et al. patent, and that patent fails to satisfy the anticipation requirements of Section 102(b) and likewise fails to create a prima facie case of obviousness under Section 103(a).

Claims 7, 19, 25, and 31 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawai in view of EP 0175432 A2. In view of the new claims presented herein, this rejection is believed to be moot.

EXTENSION OF TIME REQUEST

Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time for the filing of this RCE Response. The Notice of Appeal was filed on December 21, 2004, making the

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initial deadline for filing the Appeal Brief – February 21, 2005. A three-month extension of time would extend this response date to May 23, 2005.

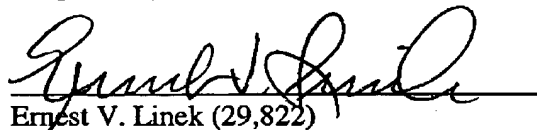
FEE AUTHORIZATION

Please charge all fees associated with this filing to our Deposit Account – No. 19-0733.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence was submitted by facsimile in the USPTO on the date shown on Page 1.

Respectfully submitted,



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